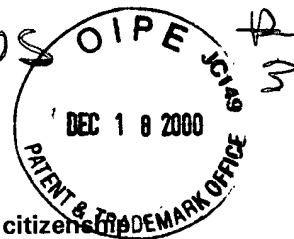


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**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that: My residence, post-office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,  
I believe that I am an original, first, and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**COLUMN PARTITION**

the specification of which was filed **28 September 2000** as application **09/672,252**.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**Prior Foreign Application**

Country	Number	Filing Date	Priority claimed
Germany	19947246.7	30 September 1999	Yes

I hereby appoint as attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business connected therewith:

**Herbert Dubno, Reg. 19,752; Andrew Wilford, Reg. 26,597; Jonathan Myers, Reg. 26,963** and each of them individually.

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 Riverdale (Bronx), NY 10471-0900  
 (718) 884-6600

Direct all telephone calls to:

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first inventor: **Helmut JANSEN**

Inventor's signature *Helmut Jansen* Date: *23.10.2000*

Residence: **Dormagen, Germany**

Citizen of Germany

Post-office Address: **Kemmerlingstrasse 16, D-41542 Dormagen, Germany**

Full name of second inventor:

**Jochen LEBEN**

Inventor's signature *X* *Jochen Leben* Date: *X*

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Citizen of Germany

Post-office Address: **Norfer Strasse 4, D-40221 Düsseldorf, Germany**

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Ser. No. 09/672,252

Full name of third inventor:

**Thomas RIETFORT**

Inventor's signature

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

Date:

*X* 23.10.2000

Residence: Bottrop, Germany

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Full name of fourth inventor:

**Egon ZICH**

Inventor's signature

*X*

*[Signature]*

Date:

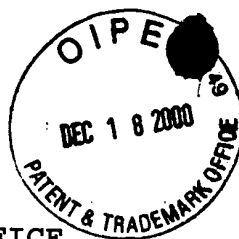
*X* 29.11.2000

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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Helmut JANSEN et al  
Patent App. 09/672,252  
Filed 28 September 2000  
For COLUMN PARTITION  
Art Unit Not known  
Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

STATEMENT AS TO REPRESENTATION

With respect to the above-identified application, the undersigned hereby authorizes the United States Attorneys and Agents named in the Declaration accompanying the application or in any Declaration subsequently filed in the application to expect and follow instructions from:

Cohausz, Hannig, Dawidowicz & Partner  
Postfach 14 01 61  
D-40071 Düsseldorf  
Germany

for any action to be taken in the United States Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the above-mentioned United States Attorneys or Agents and the undersigned. In the event of change in the person or persons from whom instructions may be taken, the above-mentioned United States Attorneys or Agents named in such Declaration will be so notified by the undersigned.

Date: 23.10.2000

Signed: H. Jansen  
Helmut JANSEN

Date: 23.10.2000

Signed: J. Leben  
Jochen LEBEN

Date: 23.10.2000

Signed: Th. Rielfort  
Thomas RIETFORT

Date: 22.11.2000

Signed: Egon Zich  
Egon ZICH